



'We're off'

Refer to page 44 of the *Jacaranda Primary Atlas Second Edition* and use the map of Australia below to complete the following tasks.

- a Locate the natural landforms mentioned in the poem 'We're off'.
- b On the map, use a line to join the places to show the route of the journey.

We're off

We set off on a journey
Around our wide, brown land.
We knew we'd have to travel
'Cross water, snow and sand.

It started with a tiring hike
To Mt Kosciuszko's peak,
Standing there and looking 'round
We felt so small and meek.

Luckily the glider
We'd carried to the top
Caught a thermal easily
So Tassie's our next stop.

We flew across the wilderness
And up the Derwent River.
The snow on old Mt Ossa
Made our bones a' shiver.

We kept our glider going
And roared across Bass Strait.
We made it back to Kossie
Before it was too late.

Jumping in our Kombi
We drove with boat in tow.
To where the River Murray
Begins its mighty flow.

The rapids in the highlands
Tested all our skill.
The ox-bow lakes and billabongs
Lay beautiful and still.

Our arms had tired
As we neared the end
Where the Murray meets the sea.
The wildlife on the Coorong filled
our hearts with glee

They took us up to Adelaide
And put us on a train.
We headed 'cross the Nullarbor
The massive treeless plain.

We didn't see a single whale
In the Great Australian Bight,
The Great Victoria Desert
Wasn't visible at night.

A plane from Perth
Then took us to
The biggest rock of all.
Uluru just stood there, wide and
round and tall.

We headed north to the folding rocks
Of the Macdonnell Ranges.
The locals gave us grubs to eat
Even though we're strangers.

In search of water
We struggled to
A salt lake now called Eyre
To find there were Mound Springs
still existing there.

The Diamantina River
We followed to the top.
Through the Great Dividing Range
Till the ocean made us stop.

Putting on our scuba gear,
We swam out to the Reef.
The coral and marine life
Were a sight beyond belief.

We kept on swimming
Around Cape York,
When Darwin loomed ahead.
We hitched a ride to Arnhem Land
and put ourselves to bed.

Robert Colliver

